

DATE August 25, 2011

Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90; *A National Broadband Plan for Our Future*, GN Docket No. 09-51; *High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 05-337.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 24, 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska, Steve Merriam, CEO, Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative Inc., Todd Hoppe, General Manager, Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative, Inc., and Brenda Schaeffer, Accounting Supervisor, OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc. met with FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and Gregory Guice, FCC Special Counsel, House Affairs. Also participating was Meagan Foster, Legislative Assistant to Senator Mark Begich. The focus of our discussion was to describe operational realities for providing services to high cost rural Alaskan communities, to ensure that whatever changes come about from the National Broadband Plan do not put our members at risk by eliminating affordable reliable services that are currently in place, that the extremely high cost of middle mile satellite transport precludes real broadband without some level of public funding, and to describe our wireless build out.

Please contact me for further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

s/

Steve Merriam
CEO
Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.

cc: Hon. Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Gregory Guice